

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 (Canceled)

23. (Original) A sub -assembly usable in the manufacture of a receiver for a hearing aid comprising:

a strip of flat stock material having a surface defining a plane; and

a linkage assembly formed from the strip and secured to the strip by at least one severable connecting member, the linkage assembly having at least a first linkage member displaced from the strip relative to the plane and a second linkage member displaced from the strip and relative to the plane, the first and second linkage members being joined.

24. (Original) The sub -assembly of claim 23, further comprising a receiver motor assembly coupled to the linkage assembly.

25. (Original) The sub -assembly of claim 23, further comprising a plurality of linkage assemblies formed in the strip.

26. (Original) The sub -assembly of claim 25, further comprising an armature of a receiver motor assembly being coupled to each the plurality of linkage assemblies.

27. (Original) The sub -assembly of claim 25, the strip comprising a segment flat stock having a predetermined number of linkage assemblies formed therein.

28. (Original) The sub -assembly of claim 23, the first linkage member and the second linkage member being joined by at least one of: welding, mechanical coupling and bonding.

29. (Original) The sub -assembly of claim 23, wherein the strip is formed to include at least one locating feature for use in assembling the sub-assembly.

30. (Original) The sub -assembly of claims 23, wherein the strip is formed to include at least one access aperture for use in joining the first linkage member and the second linkage member.

31. (Currently Amended) The sub-assembly of claim 24, the [[A]] receiver for a hearing aid comprising: motor assembly being disposed within

a housing for the receiver;

a diaphragm disposed within the housing, the diaphragm having a first end and a second end, the first end being hinged to the housing; and

[[a]] the receiver motor including an armature disposed within the housing; and, wherein

[[a]] the linkage assembly mechanically [[coupling]] couples the armature to the second end of the diaphragm, the linkage assembly having at least a first linkage member displaced from a strip of stock material relative to the plane and a second linkage member displaced from the strip and relative to the plane, the first and second linkage members being joined while secured to strip and the linkage assembly having a severable connecting member securing the linkage member to the strip during formation of the linkage member, the connecting member being severed to release the linkage member from the strip for assembly of the linkage member into the receiver.

Claims 32-33 (canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) A linkage assembly for mechanically coupling components of a receiver, the linkage assembly comprising:

a strip defining a plane;

a first portion of the strip being plastically displaced in a first direction from the plane;

a second portion of the strip being plastically displaced in a second direction from the plane and opposing the first direction;

the first and second portions defining a plurality of vertices, a first of the

vertices adapted to be coupled to an armature of the receiver and a second of the vertices being adapted to be coupled to a diaphragm of the receiver; and

a first leg member and a second leg member formed from the strip, and coupled to a third of the vertices and a fourth of the vertices, respectively.

35. (Previously Presented) The linkage assembly of claim 34, the vertices being disposed in opposing pairs.

36. (Previously Presented) The linkage assembly of claim 34, the legs acting to restrict movement of the third vertex and the fourth vertex in a direction parallel to the legs.

37. (Previously Presented) The linkage assembly of claim 34, the legs each having a coupling portion, the coupling portion being mechanically joined to the third and fourth vertices, respectively.

38. (Previously Presented) The linkage assembly of claim 34, each coupling portion being crimped to the third and fourth vertices, respectively.

39. (Previously Presented) The linkage assembly of claim 34, the first portion and the second portion defining a diamond shaped portion.

40. (Previously Presented) The linkage assembly of claim 34, the first portion being offset from the second portion, and the first and second portions being joined at the third and fourth vertices by a portion of the strip.

41. (New) The linkage assembly of claim 34, further comprising a receiver motor assembly coupled to the linkage assembly.

42. (New) The linkage assembly claim 41, the receiver motor assembly being disposed within a housing;

a diaphragm disposed within the housing, the diaphragm having a first end and a second end, the first end being hinged to the housing; and

the receiver motor including an armature disposed within the housing, wherein the linkage assembly mechanically couples the armature to the second end of the diaphragm.